

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06494 071147Z

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 L-02 MC-02 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5356

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CHJUSMAGG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ATHENS 6494

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJ: GOG REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION OF AA WEAPONS

FOR HARTMAN AND VEST FROM STEARNS

1. DEFMIN AVEROFF TELEPHONED ME ABOUT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT (SEPT 6-7) AND AT 0700 THIS MORNING TO MAKE STRONG PERSONAL PLEA THAT ALL US SURPLUS ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS IN STORAGE IN CAMP DARBY, ITALY, BE ALLOCATED FOR PURCHASE BY GOG. I UNDERTOOK TO MAKE IMMEDIATE INQUIRIES AND GENERAL BURKE HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EUCOM TO CONVEY GREEK GOVT'S INTEREST IN WEAPONS.

2. WEAPONS IN QUESTION ARE QUAD MOUNTED .50 CAL AA MACHINE GUNS, PRESUMABLY ON TOWED MOUNT, 450 OF WHICH ARE AT CAMP DARBY. UNDER MIMEX PROGRAM, 20 HAD BEEN ALLOCATED BY EUCOM TO GOG. INSPECTING OFFICER FROM HELLENIC ARMY (HA) REQUESTED ALLOCATION OF 30 MORE, WHICH APPROVED BY EUCOM AND DOD.

ON SEPTEMBER 6, HA INSPECTING OFFICER, WHO APPARENTLY LED TO BELIEVE THAT REMAINING 400 QUAD .50 CAL MOUNTS UNALLOCATED,

SECRET

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06494 071147Z

INFORMED HIS SENIORS OF GOOD CONDITION AND LOW COST (\$800

EACH) OF REMAINING MOUNTS, LEADING TO AVEROFF'S CALLS.
COMPLICATING MATTER IS FACT THAT REMAINING 400 WEAPONS HAD
BEEN ALLOCATED EARLIER TO TURKEY.

3. CHJUSMAGG, WITH WHOM WE HAVE COLLABORATED ON THIS MESSAGE,
HAS RECOMMENDED TO EUCOM THAT ALL, OR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, OF
REMAINING 400 WEAPONS BE ALLOCATED TO GOG. EUCOM HAS
INDICATED THAT ORIGINAL ALLOCATION MADE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO
UNDER PRE-CRISIS CONDITIONS THEN PREVAILING. GENERAL BURKE
AND I BELIEVE THAT MEETING REQUESTS OF PRESENT GOG WHENEVER
POSSIBLE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL NOT ONLY IN SHORING UP OUR OWN
ERODED POSITION BUT IN STRENGTHENING PRESENT GOVERNMENT
BOTH VIS-A-VIS ITS LEFT-WING POLITICAL CRITICS AND ITS OWN
SOMETIMES RESTIVE MILITARY.

SINCE ABOVE DRAFTED, VADM ARAPAKIS, CHIEF, HELLENIC NAVY,
HAS TELEPHONED ME TO ADD HIS OWN PLEA TO THAT OF DEFMIN
AVEROFF. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS CASE MAY BECOME ONE OF A
SERIES OF LITMUS TESTS OF THE RELIABILITY OF OUR SUPPORT
FOR GREECE, AND IT IS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW EXCEEDINGLY
IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOG AS MANY AS WE CAN
OF THESE 400 WEAPONS.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH
DOD TO SEE WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO HELP GREEKS OUT ON A
MATTER TO WHICH THEY OBVIOUSLY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE.
AVEROFF INDICATED TO ME THAT, WHILE GOG WOULD LIKE ALL OF
THE WEAPONS, HE WOULD PERSONALLY BE CONTENT WITH HALF OF
THEM. I SAID THAT I WOULD GET BACK TO HIM WITHIN 2 - 3
DAYS WITH A STATUS REPORT.
TASCA

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